

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus for longitudinally orienting pre-glued elongated wood strands for forming OSB panels includes a spreading head with disc rolls that each have discs arranged parallel to one another on a rotatable shaft arranged over a forming belt. The discs of a given disc roll intermesh overlappingly in the interspaces between the discs of the adjacent disc rolls, to form vertical orienting passages between the intermeshing discs. The shaft or the individual discs of at least one of the disc rolls is/are slidably adjustable in the axial direction of the shaft, to adjust the axial width of the orienting passages. In a method of operating the apparatus, the width of the orienting passages is adjusted depending on the dimensions, the dimensional variation or tolerance, and/or the throughput quantity of the supplied strand material. Thereby, the throughput quantity and the longitudinal orienting of the strands can be optimized, depending on the particular strand material.